

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed July 27, 2005, has been received and its contents carefully noted. This response is filed within three months of the mailing date of the Official Action and therefore is believed to be timely without extension of time. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on December 13, 2004.

Claims 43-123 are pending in the present application, of which claims 43, 44, 47, 48, 53-56, 73-75, 82-84, 94-97 and 104-107 are independent. Dependent claim 71 has been amended to correct a minor informality. The Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 47-52, 59, 60, 63, 64, 67, 68, 71, 72, 82-93, 96, 97, 100-103, 110, 111, 114, 115, 118, 119, 122 and 123 (page 9, Paper No. 07192005). For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Official Action rejects claims 43, 44, 53-56, 69, 70, 73, 79, 94, 95, 104-107, 120 and 121 as obvious based on the combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,472,256 to Zhang et al. and U.S. Patent No. 4,940,934 to Kawaguchi et al. The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection because the Official Action has not made a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

As stated in MPEP §§ 2142-2143.01, to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. Obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either explicitly or implicitly in the

references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. "The test for an implicit showing is what the combined teachings, knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art, and the nature of the problem to be solved as a whole would have suggested to those of ordinary skill in the art." In re Kotzab, 217 F.3d 1365, 1370, 55 USPQ2d 1313, 1317 (Fed. Cir. 2000). See also In re Fine, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988); In re Jones, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992).

The prior art, either alone or in combination, does not teach or suggest all the features of the independent claims. The Official Action concedes that "Zhang et al. do not disclose ... judging whether or not the plurality of thin film transistors are defective from the value prior to forming a plurality of pixel electrodes" (page 3, Paper No. 07192005). The Official Action asserts that "Kawaguchi et al. disclose ... forming a plurality of pixel electrodes (D_{11} , D_{12} , D_{21}) to be electrically connected to the plurality of thin film transistors (C_{11} , C_{12} , C_{21}) after the judging (Fig. 4; col. 3, lines 12-25)" (Id.). The Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse the above assertions in the Official Action.

It is clearly shown in Figure 1 of Kawaguchi that pixel electrodes are patterned in the transistor array substrate producing step (1) (see column 3, line 49 to column 4, line 5). Then, the electrical test method of the active matrix substrate in a substrate testing step (2) is conducted following the transistor array substrate producing step (1) (column 4, lines 6-8). In Figures 4, 6 and 7, which show prior art, pixel electrodes have also been patterned before the substrate testing step is conducted. Therefore, contrary to the assertion in the Official Action, Kawaguchi does not teach or suggest forming a plurality of pixel electrodes after judging. Since the Official Action concedes that Zhang does not teach this feature, the alleged combination of Zhang and Kawaguchi do not teach or suggest forming a plurality of pixel electrodes to be electrically connected to a plurality of thin film transistors after judging.

Also, the Official Action relies on transparent pixel electrode 47 of Zhang to allegedly teach the conductive film of the claims of the present application. However, Zhang and Kawaguchi, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest that transparent pixel electrode 47 of Zhang be used for judging whether or not a plurality of thin film transistors are defective in patterning in order to form a plurality of pixel electrodes.

Further, with respect to independent claims 55 and 56, it is noted that these claims are similar to allowed claims 47 and 48; therefore, claims 55 and 56 are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Still further, with respect to independent claims 105 and 106, it is noted that these claims are similar to allowed claims 95 and 96; therefore, claims 105 and 106 are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

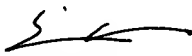
Since Zhang and Kawaguchi do not teach or suggest all the claim limitations, a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be maintained. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are in order and respectfully requested.

The Official Action rejects claims 45, 46, 57, 58, 61, 62, 65, 66, 74-78, 80, 81, 98, 99, 108, 109, 112, 113, 116 and 117 based on the combination of Zhang, Kawaguchi and one or more of the following: U.S. Patent No. 6,274,887 to Yamazaki et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,760,855 to Nakase et al. and U.S. Patent No. 6,729,922 to Hiroki. Please incorporate the arguments above with respect to the deficiencies in Zhang and Kawaguchi. Yamazaki '887, Nakase and Hiroki do not cure the deficiencies in Zhang and Kawaguchi. The Official Action relies on Yamazaki '887 to allegedly teach laminating EL layers and an opposing electrode on pixel electrodes (page 5, Paper No. 07192005), on Nakase to allegedly teach a source signal line driver circuit, a gate signal line driver circuit and a controller attached to a display panel (page 6, Id.) and on Hiroki to allegedly teach attaching a source signal line driver circuit, a gate signal line driver circuit, a controller and a microcomputer to a display panel (page 7, Id.). However,

Zhang, Kawaguchi, Yamazaki '887, Nakase and Hiroki, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest forming a plurality of pixel electrodes to be electrically connected to a plurality of thin film transistors after judging, as recited in the independent claims or a transparent pixel electrode for judging whether or not a plurality of thin film transistors are defective in patterning in order to form a plurality of pixel electrodes. Since Zhang and Kawaguchi and Yamazaki '887, Nakase and Hiroki do not teach or suggest all the claim limitations, a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be maintained. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are in order and respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric J. Robinson
Reg. No. 38,285

Robinson Intellectual Property Law Office, P.C.
PMB 955
21010 Southbank Street
Potomac Falls, Virginia 20165
(571) 434-6789